

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Missouri Department of
Health and Senior Services
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

In 1993, Missouri enacted legislation to address several health care issues in Missouri. A major component of the legislation, section 191.411, requires the development of a plan to make health care more available and accessible to all Missouri residents. In response, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services established the Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri. Known as PRIMO, the program is designed to provide incentives to increase the number of primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals and to improve health care delivery systems in areas of need within the state.

PRIMO 4 Components

- Health Care Delivery System Development
- Recruitment/Placement of Health Professionals
- Student Loans
- Health Professional Loan Repayment



Health Care Delivery System Development

The program seeks to improve the delivery of health care by creating economically sustainable systems that provide high quality primary care involving medical, dental and behavioral health services. The services strive to prevent, treat and manage disease, injury and disability to benefit both the individual and the community. To reach this goal, PRIMO funds the expansion or creation of new community-based health care delivery systems.

PRIMO contracts with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC Look-a-Likes and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to provide health services. Missouri's FQHCs are local, non-profit, community-owned health care centers serving low-income and medically underserved communities. RHCs are required to provide outpatient primary care services and basic laboratory services and must be located within non-urban rural areas that have health care shortage designations.

Below is a list of health care delivery sites that were funded by PRIMO during the most recent fiscal year, along with their funded activities:

Community Health Center of Central Missouri – Expanded dental services into Callaway County. Renovations were made to an existing building, dental equipment was purchased and installed, and additional clinic staff was hired. The clinic opened and provided care to 100 patients during the contract period, with an expectation to serve over 2000 in the next year.

Missouri Ozarks Community Health – Expanded dental services into Texas and Wright Counties. A lease/purchase agreement was established for a clinic building, dental equipment was purchased and installed, and additional clinic staff was hired.

Ozarks Resource Group – PRIMO provided start-up funding for Missouri's newest FQHC. This funding supported the provision of medical and dental services in Hickory County.

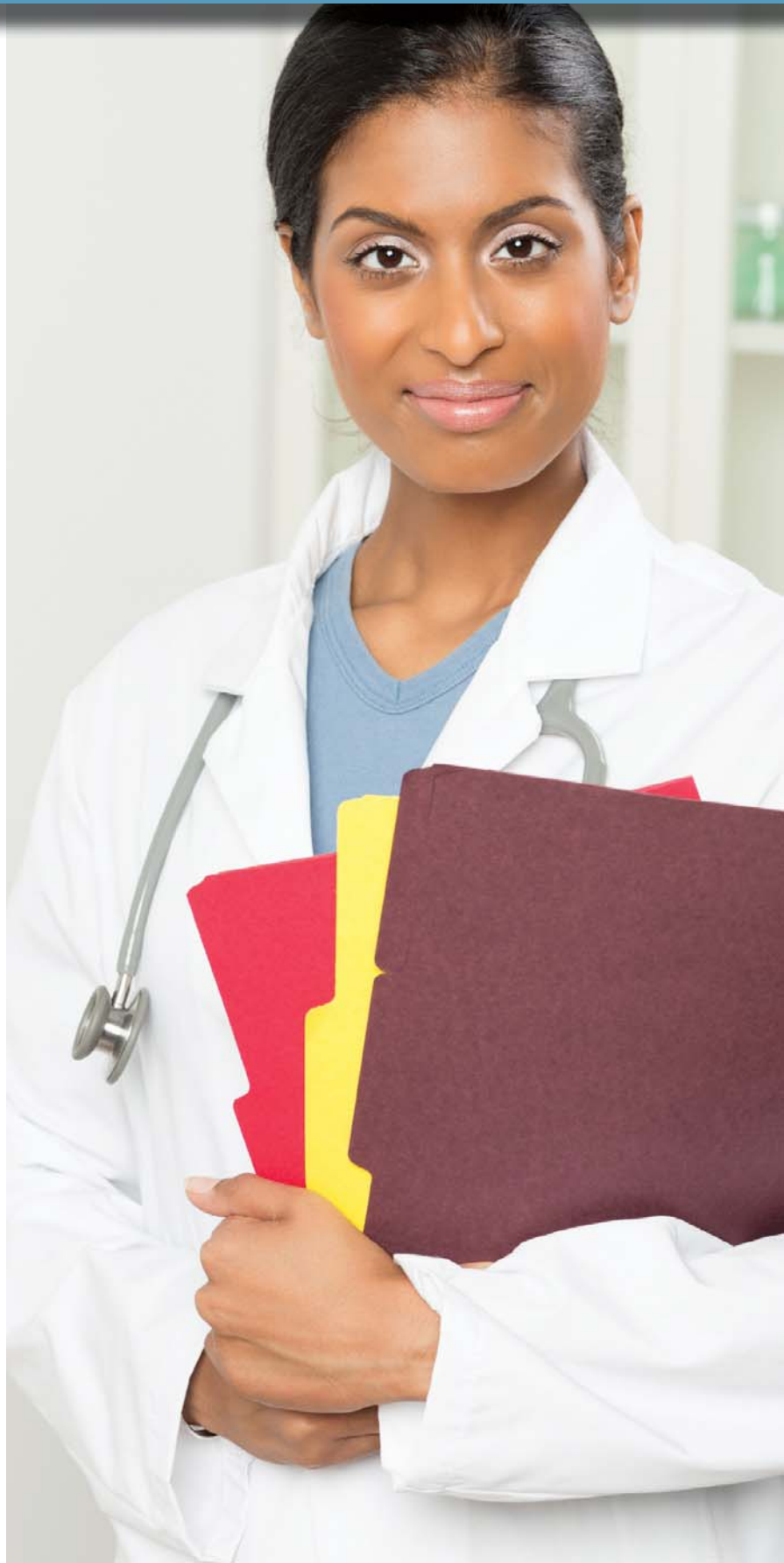
Southeast Missouri Health Network – Expanded dental and mental health care to Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Mississippi, Stoddard and Scott Counties by increasing staff hours, dental supplies and office supplies. Mental health visits were increased by 321 and dental visits were increased by 1,198 with the development of a mobile clinic.

PRIMO
2013

Recruitment & Placement

PRIMO works directly with organizations to assist in the recruitment and placement of health professionals in underserved Missouri communities through a variety of methods. One method is the use of the Practice Sites recruitment software to implement the Missouri Provider Recruitment Services, through collaboration with the MPCA. Providers are recruited in the fields of primary medical, dental, and behavioral health for underserved areas of Missouri, and healthcare facilities are identified with open job opportunities. The health care professionals then work directly with a professional recruitment and placement manager to find the practice site best suited for the professional and the community.

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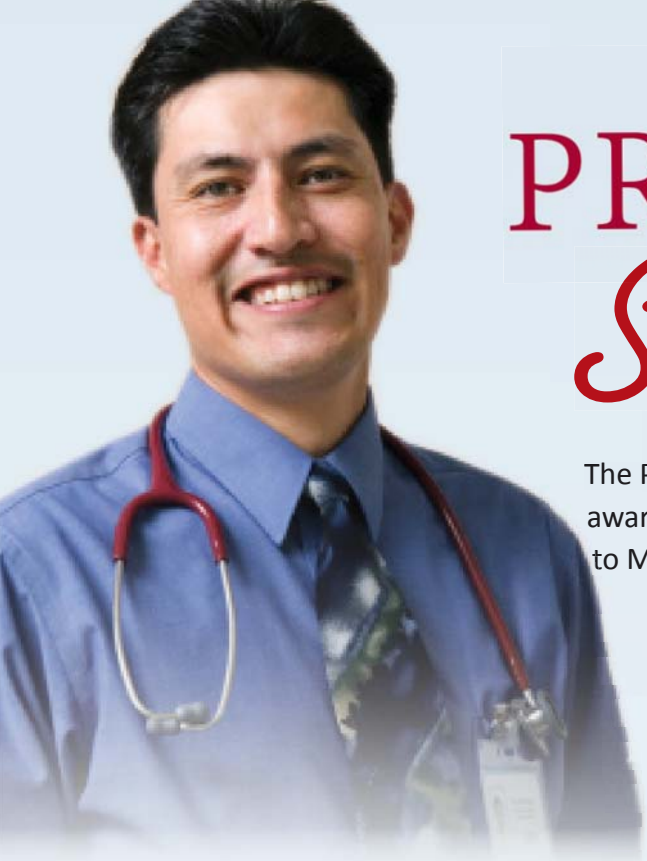


Practice Sites Opportunity Data State Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2012	State Fiscal Year 2013	Total
Family Medicine	93	50	143
Internal Medicine	35	24	59
OB/GYN	9	8	17
Pediatrician	9	7	16
Advanced Practice Nurse	20	8	28
Physician Assistant	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	4	0	4
Dentist	19	10	29
Psychiatry	8	3	11
Other Mental Health Professional	1	6	7
Hospitalist	8	5	13
Other Physician	17	13	30
Pharmacist	0	2	2
Totals	223	136	359

Practice Sites Placement Data State Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2012	State Fiscal Year 2013	Total
Family Medicine	3	4	7
Internal Medicine	2	0	2
OB/GYN	0	0	0
Pediatrician	0	0	0
Advanced Practice Nurse	3	1	4
Physician Assistant	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	1	0	1
Dentist	6	4	10
Psychiatry	0	0	0
Other Mental Health Professional	0	0	0
Totals	15	9	24



Student Loans

The PRIMO Student Loan Program is a competitive state program that awards forgivable loans to students pursuing health care training leading to Missouri licensure or registration in the following fields:

- Primary Care Medicine
- Dentistry
- Dental Hygiene
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Licensed Clinical Social Work
- Licensed Professional Counseling

Loan amounts are based on discipline and level of degree and range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year. Loans can be repaid in two ways: earning forgiveness or repaying with cash. To earn forgiveness, students are required to provide primary health care services in a DHSS approved area of defined need upon completion of their training. The forgiveness obligation is one year of qualified employment for each school year in which a student received a loan, with a minimum one-year obligation and a maximum five year commitment.

A DHSS-approved area of defined need is a geographic area, facility or a population group that DHSS has determined is experiencing a shortage of primary health care providers or has inadequate access to health care providers. This includes those areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSA designations are determined in conjunction with data obtained from the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Primary health care services are defined as the hands-on provision of direct outpatient-based primary and preventive health care services.

Utilizing an annual \$500,000 contribution by the Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) PRIMO supported the continued education for 9 medical residents, 18 medical students, 4 dental students and 1 behavioral health student, during SFY13.

PRIMO Student Loans Fiscal Year 13

	Undergraduate	6 Yr Medical	Medical/ Dental School	Residency	Total
Medical		2	16	9	27
Dental			4		4
LCSW	1				1
Total	1	2	20	9	32

Health Professional Loan Repayment

The Health Professional Loan Repayment Program provides financial incentives, via the repayment of outstanding educational loans, in exchange for providing primary health care services in areas of need in Missouri. A minimum two-year contract is required. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services provides loan repayment to registered and advanced practice nurses, primary care physicians, primary care dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors.

Maximum loan repayment amounts are:

- \$25,000 per year for primary care physicians, dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists
- \$10,000 per year for primary care advanced practice nurses, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers

In order to provide funds to practicing health professionals, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health utilizes the State Loan Repayment Grant through the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which requires a dollar-for-dollar match through PRIMO. In SFY 2013, 6 professionals were awarded educational debt assistance.



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